



2008219.01

**BEREA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

In Attendance

J. GrosseBusiness Manager
R. King.....GPD Associates
M. Salopek.....GPD Associates
Planning Committee Per Sign-In Sheet

Distribution

All in Attendance

The following is a brief list of items discussed:

- Following the input from last week, GPD had provided some alternate site layouts and these formed a PowerPoint presentation which had also been published on the WIKI. Each option shown included some pro's and con's of that particular layout.
- Option 1 essentially reflected the same as one layout from the previous meeting but with the size of the building footprint reduced to reflect a partial 2nd story component.
- Option 2 brought the bus loop to the north side of the building.
- Option 3 brought the building closer to the street with parking behind and it had the bus loop at the front of the building.
- Option 4 turned the building and parking 90 degrees to the other options and had a single entry for bus students and cars on the east of the building. The vehicular circulation was however separated.
- Option 5 addressed a comment that perhaps the bus loop could double as a walking track around the playground.
- Option 6 had a bus loop on the east and the parking to the north (between the street and the building).
- Questions and comments related to these layouts included:
 - In most layouts more attention needs to be paid to walking students and reducing their exposure to crossing vehicular traffic. Perhaps the points of ingress and egress could be adjusted so that the sidewalks are continuous?



- Although it is felt by some that students crossing traffic is inevitable, and that, for example, crossing between buses is preferable to crossing between cars, consensus was that student and vehicular interaction should be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
- No walks are shown to the playgrounds – what about wheelchair access? *Response: Accessible routes will most definitely be provided to the playground.*
- Can the parking be split? At Big Creek, of the approximate 155 spaces, about 117 are dedicated for staff. For this building probably at least the same number of staff would be required. Could the staff parking be inside the bus loop in options 5 and 6? The bus loop around the playground does not seem to be a good idea and parking for teachers would be better. Splitting of the parking would decrease the sea of parking, move the building closer to the street and probably permit the playground to be situated on the south of the building. *Response: This can be investigated.*
- The entry point should be visible from the street. It is also still a good idea, if possible, to have separate entries for after-hours activities in the gym and cafeteria.
- Could the walking track be around the whole perimeter of the site? Could it have some undulations instead of just being flat? *Response: These suggestions will be reviewed. ADA requirements will have to be met with slopes and ramps.*
- In the planning and architectural design, careful attention should be given to minimizing the opportunities offered for skateboarders.
- What is the “green” space shown on the drawings? *Response: It is landscaping. In a previous meeting it had been suggested that the plant types be more natural/indigenous so as to reduce the maintenance requirements. These suggestions will be considered as the design develops.*
- Access to the playground for maintenance vehicles/plows etc. needs to be provided.
- An outdoor classroom space should be provided. Ideally this would be enclosed (to prevent vandalism) and would be accessed from classrooms so as to provide an extension of the learning environment. A suggestion was also made to perhaps consider a “green” or vegetated roof for such an outdoor learning space. Use of the space for performances is not desirable.
- What outdoor sports facilities are required/desired if the soccer field goes away? *Response: This needs further input. How existing schools are used demonstrates that only a small portion of a field is used. Hard surface play areas are more widely used than the grassed areas. The Board of Education site would still provide an opportunity for a soccer field if the need arises but that is really outside of the scope of this project.*
- Can the wide area in the center of the parking lot be better laid out/designed so as to provide a better access from the street to the building? *Response: Yes, it would get better attention during detail design. R. King noted that the City’s zoning code required a substantial amount of landscaping in a parking lot. This would lessen the*



visual extent of a "sea of parking" and also provide the opportunity of using the landscaping as bioswales for stormwater quality control.

- It was suggested that for the next meeting, committee members may want to participate in small group discussions:
 - Phys. Ed. & outside play areas;
 - Special Ed.
 - Exterior aesthetics.
 - Building interior.
- The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. Revised exterior layouts will be shown and small group discussions will be facilitated.

The preceding is GPD Associates interpretation of the meeting. Any changes, additions, or clarifications should be forwarded to our office as soon as possible. Unless these changes are furnished within ten (10) working days, it will be understood that all parties are in agreement with the preceding statements.

Respectfully submitted,
GPD Associates
Architects&Engineers&Planners
520 South Main Street, Suite 2531
Akron, Ohio 44311-1010
(330) 572-2100 - Phone (330) 572-2102 – Fax